

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for abstraction and distinction of content objects, wherein the
2 system comprises:

3 an abstraction engine communicably coupled to a first plurality of content
4 object entities;

5 a distinction engine communicably coupled to a second plurality of content
6 object entities;

7 wherein the first plurality of content object entities includes at least two
8 content object entities selected from a group consisting of: an appliance control system, a
9 telephone information system, a storage medium including video objects, a storage medium
10 including audio objects, an audio stream source, a video stream source, a human interface, the
11 Internet, and an interactive content entity; and

12 wherein the second plurality of content object entities includes at least two
13 content object entities selected from a group consisting of: an appliance control system, a
14 telephone information system, a storage medium including video objects, a storage medium
15 including audio objects, a human interface, the Internet, and an interactive content entity.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein two or more of the content object
2 entities are maintained on separate partitions of a common database.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the common database is partitioned
2 using a content based schema.

1 4. The system of claim 2, wherein the common database is partitioned
2 using a user based schema.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the abstraction engine is operable to
2 receive a content object from one of the first plurality of content object entities, and to form
3 the content object into an abstract format.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the abstraction engine is operable to
2 receive a first content object from one of the first content object entities and to derive a
3 second content object based on the first content object, wherein the abstraction engine is
4 further operable to receive a third content object from one of the first content object entities
5 and to derive a fourth content object based on the third content object, and wherein the

6 abstraction engine is further operable to combine the second content object and the fourth
7 content object to create a fifth content object.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the distinction engine is operable to
2 format the fifth content object such that the fifth content object is compatible with a selected
3 one of the second plurality of content object entities.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the abstraction engine is operable to
2 receive a content object from one of the first plurality of content object entities and to form
3 the content object into an abstract format, and wherein the distinguishing engine is operable
4 to conform the abstracted content object with a standard compatible with a selected one of the
5 second plurality of content objects.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:
2 an access point, wherein the access point indicates a number of content objects
3 associated with the first plurality of content object entities, and one or more of the second
4 plurality of content object entities to which respective content objects of the number of
5 content object entities can be directed.

1 10. A method for utilizing content objects, wherein the method comprises:
2 accessing a first content object from a first content object entity;
3 abstracting the first content object to create a second content object;
4 distinguishing the second content object to create a third content object,
5 wherein the third content object is compatible with a second content object entity; and
6 providing the third content object to the second content object entity.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises:
2 accessing a fourth content object from a third content object entity;
3 abstracting the fourth content object to create a fifth content object; and
4 combining the fifth content object with the second content object, wherein the
5 combination of the second and fifth content objects are distinguished to create the third
6 content object.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first content object is a video
2 object, and wherein the fourth content object is an audio object.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein abstracting the first content object
2 includes separating an audio portion from a video portion of the video object.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the first content object is a video
2 object, and wherein the fourth content object is an Internet object.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises:
2 identifying a content object associated with one of the first plurality of content
3 object entities that has expired; and
4 removing the identified content object.

1 16. The method of claim 10, wherein the first content object is a video
2 object, wherein abstracting the first content object includes removing a visual portion of the
3 video object, and wherein the second content object includes an audio portion of the video
4 object.

1 17. The method of claim 10, wherein the first content object entity is one
2 of a first plurality of content object entities, wherein the second content object entity is one of
3 a second plurality of content object entities, and wherein the method further comprises:
4 querying each of the first plurality of content object entities to identify a first
5 plurality of content objects; and
6 providing an access point, wherein the access point indicates the first plurality
7 of content objects, and one or more of the second plurality of content object entities to which
8 each of the first plurality of content objects can be directed.

1 18. A method for accessing content objects within a customer premises,
2 the method comprising:
3 identifying content object entities within the customer premises;
4 grouping the identified content object entities into a first plurality of content
5 object entities and a second plurality of content object entities, wherein the first plurality of
6 content object entities are sources of content objects, and wherein the second plurality of
7 content object entities are destinations of content objects; and
8 providing an access point, wherein the access point indicates the first plurality
9 of content objects, and one or more of the second plurality of content object entities to which
10 each of the first plurality of content objects can be directed.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:
2 mixing two or more content objects from the first plurality of content object
3 entities to form a composite content object; and
4 providing the composite content object to one of the second plurality of
5 content object entities.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:
2 accessing a first content object from one of the first plurality of content object
3 entities;
4 eliminating a portion of the content included with the first content object to
5 create a second content object; and
6 providing the second content object to one of the second plurality of content
7 object entities.